

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for the preparation of a printing plate comprising inkjet printing an oleophilic image on a surface of a support by applying to the support an aqueous solution or aqueous colloidal dispersion of an oleophilising compound on the surface of the support and drying the applied solution or dispersion, such that on drying the area of the surface to which the solution or dispersion was applied becomes lithographic ink-accepting, characterised in that the oleophilising compound has the chemical structure



or



wherein

each M is the same or different and independently selected from H or a cation;

each of l, m and n independently is 0 or 1,

provided that $l+m+n = \text{at least } 1$;

each of R, R' and R" independently is -H or -L-B;

L is a linking group selected from ~~alkylene~~, alkyleneoxy, thio, sulfonyl, sulfinyl, sulfoxyl, amido, alkylamido, oxyamido, alkylcarbamoyl carbamoyl, sulfonylamido, aminosulfonyl, aminosulfonylamido, hydrazinyl-sulfonyl, carboxyl, oxycarbonyl, carbonyl, carboxyhydrazinyl, amino, thiocarbonyl, sulfamoylamino, sulfamoyl, thiocarbamoyl, any one of said linking groups being substituted or unsubstituted; and

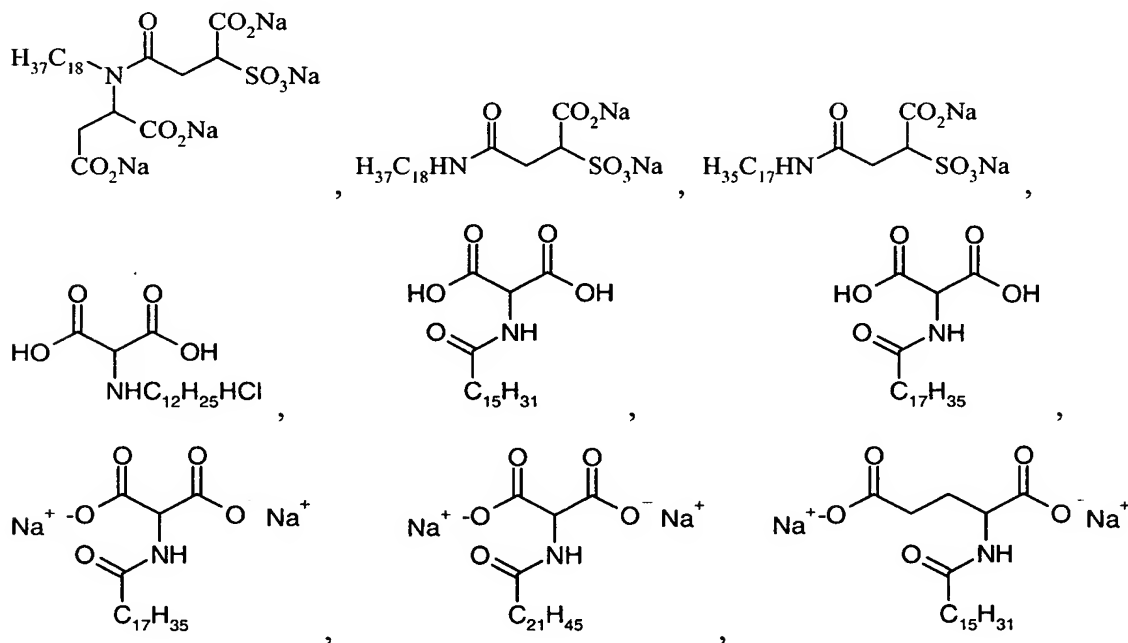
B is a hydrophobic group comprising 8 or more carbon atoms, provided that at least one of R, R' and R" is present and has the structure -L-B.

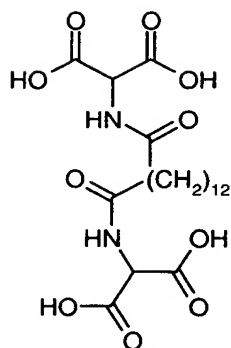
2. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the linking group L is selected from ~~ethylene, amino, amido, carbamoyl, alkylamido, or alkylcarbamoyl~~, any one of said linking groups being substituted or unsubstituted.

3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the linking group L is selected from an unsubstituted or substituted ~~-CH₂-~~, >CHCOOH, -NHCOCH₂-, -NR'''COCH₂- wherein R''' is -CH(CO₂Na)CH₂(CO₂Na), and >NCOCH₂CH(CO₂Na)(SO₃Na).

4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the hydrophobic group is a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group having from 8 to 40 carbon atoms.

5. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the oleophilising compound is selected from the group consisting of





and

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the oleophilising compound is present in the aqueous solution or aqueous colloidal dispersion in an amount from 0.005 to 5 % by weight.
7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the aqueous solution or aqueous colloidal dispersion has a surface tension in the range from 20 to 60 dynes/cm.
8. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the support is selected from metallic and polymeric sheets and foils, polyester films, and paper-based supports.
9. (currently amended) A printing plate obtained by a method as claimed in claim 1.